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Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 H-02 INR-10 IO-14 L-03
OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00
NSC-05 /086 W
----------077423 181921Z /43
O R 181745Z JUL 78
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3112
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR

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STATE FOR ACDA FOR NEWHOUSE
USICA FOR PGM/PPE LAFE ALLEN; EUR FOR COHEN

E O 11652: NA
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: END OF ROUND XV PRESS STATEMENT GIVEN
BY NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR DE VOS JULY 19, 1978

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT FOR JULY 19 WIRELESS
FILE QUOTE EMBARGO UNTIL 1200 GMT JULY 19. UNQUOTE.

PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR W. DE VOS VAN STEENWIJK
ON BEHALF OF THE WESTERN PARTICIPANTS
IN THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

IN MY REMARKS TODAY, I WOULD LIKE BRIEFLY TO SUMMARIZE THE
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PRESENT SITUATION OF THESE TALKS.

WESTERN PARTICIPANTS HAVE SOUGHT THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF
THESE NEGOTIATIONS TO DO EVERYTHING IN THEIR POWER TO REACH AN
AGREEMENT CONSISTENT WITH THE AGREED GOAL OF A MORE STABLE
RELATIONSHIIP WITH UNDIMINISHED SECURITY FOR EACH PARTICIPANT.
OUR INITIAL PROPOSALS IN 1973, CALLING FOR AN OUTCOME OF

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APPROXIMATE PARITY IN GROUND FORCES, WERE DESIGNED TO MAKE A REAL CONTRIBUTION TO ENHANCING STABILITY IN THE AREA.

IN THE COURSE OF THE TALKS, WESTERN PARTICIPANTS HAVE MADE SEVERAL ADDITIONAL PROPOSALS IN RESPONSE TO EXPRESSED EASTERN CONCERNS. ON DECEMBER 16, 1975, AND AGAIN ON APRIL 19, 1978, WESTERN PARTICIPANTS MADE SIGNIFICANT MOVES WHICH CHANGED THE OUTCOME ENVISAGED BY THE WESTERN PROPOSALS OF 1973. THE WESTERN PROPOSALS CONSTITUTE AN INDISPUTABLY EQUITABLE BALANCE OF OBLIGATIONS FOR EACH SIDE.

IT IS IN THIS CONTEXT THAT WESTERN AUTHORITIES ARE EXAMINING THE EASTERN PROPOSALS OF JUNE 8. THESE PROPOSALS CONTAIN MOVES OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CERTAIN ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE WEST AND IN THAT RESPECT ARE WELCOME. HOWEVER, THERE REMAIN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES ON A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT ISSUES. AMONG THESE, THE DISCUSSION OF THE EASTERN PROPOSALS DURING THIS ROUND HAS MADE CLEAR THAT, DESPITE THE NARROWING OF DIFFERENCES ON PRINCIPLE, THERE ARE SOME SERIOUS DEFECTS IN THE MEANS PROPOSED BY THE EASTERN TO IMPLEMENT THESE TENTATIVELY AGREED PRINCIPLES.

FOR EXAMPLE, ALTHOUGH EASTERN PARTICIPANTS HAVE ACCEPTED THE CONCEPT OF AN OUTCOME OF PARITY, THE REDUCTIONS THE EAST WOULD TAKE TO REACH PARITY WOULD BE BASED ON THE TABLED EASTERN FIGURES ON EASTERN MANPOWER IN THE AREA. BECAUSE THE DATA UNCLASSIFIED

DISCREPANCY REMAINS UNRESOLVED, THE POTENTIALLY USEFUL EASTERN ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF PARITY IS NOT YET OF PRACTICAL VALUE.

IN FACT, DATA AND THE RELATED ISSUE OF THE SIZE OF MANPOWER REDUCTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY EACH SIDE REMAIN THE CENTRAL ISSUES OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS. ALTHOUGH THE PARTICIPANTS HAD A USEFUL DISCUSSION ON DATA THIS ROUND, THERE IS STILL NO CLARIFICATION OF THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN WESTERN AND EASTERN FIGURES ON EASTERN MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE AREA TO REPORT. CLEARLY, THERE CAN BE NO REAL PROGRESS TOWARD AN AGREEMENT ON REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS UNTIL THE DISCREPANCY IS RESOLVED AND AGREEMENT IS REACHED ON A DATA BASE. THE WEST INTENDS TO PURSUE THE DATA DISCUSSION WITH DETERMINATION IN ORDER TO FIND THE SOURCES OF THE DISCREPANCY.

SIMILARLY, ALTHOUGH EASTERN PARTICIPANTS HAVE ACCEPTED THE CONCEPT OF COLLECTIVITY OF MANPOWER LIMITATIONS, THEY HAVE ALSO PROPOSED CERTAIN RULES FOR IMPLEMENTING THIS CONCEPT WHICH HAVE ELEMENTS OF NATIONAL CEILINGS AND WHICH COULD EFFECTIVELY PREVENT WESTERN PARTICIPANTS FROM MAINTAINING THE AGREED POST-REDUCTION LEVEL IN THE EVENT OF SUBSEQUENT UNILATERAL REDUCTIONS.

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THESE RULES WOULD AT THE SAME TIME NOT PREVENT THE SOVIET UNION FROM RETURNING TO ITS STARTING LEVEL. SUCH A RESULT WOULD BE DESTABILIZING AND WOULD DIMINISH WESTERN SECURITY. WESTERN PROPOSALS FOR OPERATING THE COLLECTIVITY PRINCIPLE DO NOT HAVE THESE SERIOUS DEFECTS.

IN ITS PROPOSALS, THE EAST IS ASKING THE WEST TO UNDERTAKE ALL THOSE OBLIGATIONS WHICH THE WEST HAS ITSELF OFFERED PLUS ADDITIONAL WEIGHTY REQUIREMENTS. IN RETURN, THE EAST IS OFFERING WITHDRAWALS OF SOVIET UNITS AND ARMAMENTS IN PHASE I, PLUS FURTHER EASTERN MANPOWER REDUCTIONS IN THE SECON D PHASE WHICH, TAKEN TOGETHER, ARE FAR LESS THAN WHAT THE WEST HAS ASKED. CLEARLY, FROM THE STANDPOINT OF BALANCE, THERE IS A NEED FOR EASTERN PARTICIPANTS TO RE-EXAMINE THE PACKAGE THEY
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HAVE PROPOSED.

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THE QUESTION OF COMMITMENTS IN PHASE I BY DIRECT

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PARTICIPANTS OTHER THAN THE USA AND USSR REGARDING THEIR PHASE II REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS ALSO REMAINS AT ISSUE. THE WESTERN APRIL 19 PROPOSALS PROVIDED THE BASIS FOR RESOLUTION OF THIS ISSUE. THEY OFFERED A GENERAL COMMITMENT OF THE KIND THE EAST HAS BEEN ASKING FOR REGARDING THE SCOPE AND TIMING OF PHASE II REDUCTIONS BY THE WESTERN EUROPEAN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AND CANADA. HOWEVER, THE JUNE 8 PROPOSALS SHOW THAT THE EAST IS IN FACT STILL REQUESTING VERY SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS IN PHASE I REGARDING ALL THE ASPECTS OF THESE REDUCTIONS. CONTRARY TO EASTERN CLAIMS, THE EASTERN PROPOSALS DO NOT RESERVE THE MODALITIES OF PHASE II REDUCTIONS FOR PHASE II NEGOTIATIONS.

BEYOND THIS, THE EASTERN APPROACH IGNORES DIFFERENCES IN THE GEOGRAPHIC SITUATION OF VARIOUS PARTICIPANTS AND THEREFORE WOULD PLACE MORE BURDENSOME OBLIGATIONS ON SOME PARTICIPANTS THAN OTHERS. UNDER IT, PARTICIPANTS WHOSE TERRITORY IS LOCATED

WITHIN THE AREA WOULD BE OBLIGED TO ACCEPT LIMITATIONS ON THEIR TOTAL MILITARY MANPOWER AND FORCE STRUCTURE, AS WELL AS ARMAMENTS SELECTED FOR REDUCTION. ON THE OTHER HAND, PARTICIPANTS WHOSE TERRITORY IS LOCATE OUTSIDE THE AREA WOULD NOT INCUR LIMITS OF ANY KIND ON THE TOTAL LEVEL OF THEIR FORCES. IT IS CLEAR THAT A REDUCTION OBLIGATION ON THE FORCES OF A COUNTRY WHOSE TERRITORY IS WITHIN THE AREA IS FAR MORE BURDENSOME THAN THE SAME REDUCTION OBLIGATION ON THE SOVIET UNION, WHOSE TERRITORY IS LOCATED OUTSIDE THE AREA BUT IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO IT.

THIS UNEQUAL EASTERN APPROACH TO REDUCTION OBLIGATIONS WOULD RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE FOR THE EAST. WHAT IS NECESSARY, THEREFORE, IS TO CONSTRUCT A BALANCED PACKAGE OF REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS ON EITHER SIDE, ONE WHOSE TERMS TAKE FULL ACCOUNT OF THE IMPACT OF GEOGRAPHY ON INDIVIDUAL OBLIGATIONS.

THE WESTERN PROPOSALS DO THIS. THE FACT THAT THE LARGEST EASTERN POWER, THE SOVIET UNION, DIRECTLY ADJOINS THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS AND WOULD NOT BE LIMITED IN THE OVERALL SIZE OF ITS FORCES PROVIDES ADDED JUSTIFICATION FOR THE WESTERN CALL FOR REDUCTIONS IN MILITARY MANPOWER LEADING TO GENUINE PARITY IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS, FOR GENUINELY COLLECTIVE MANPOWER CEILINGS WITH A SPECIFIC LIMITATION ON SOVIET AND US MANPOWER WITHIN THE AREA, AND FOR OUR OPPOSITION TO ARMAMENT REDUCTIONS BY WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OTHER THAN THE US.

TO SUM UP, WESTERN PARTICIPANTS WELCOME THE EASTERN JUNE 8 RESPONSE TO THE WESTERN INITIATIVE OF APRIL. THESE EASTERN PROPOSALS REPRESENT THE FIRST TIME THE EAST HAS MODIFIED IN ANY WAY THE OUTCOME ENVISAGED BY THE EASTERN PROPOSALS OF

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NOVEMBER, 1973. THEY ALSO CONTAIN POTENTIALLY IMPORTANT
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AGREEMENT ON A NUMBER OF POINTS OF PRINCIPLE. IF FURTHER
DISCUSSION OF THE UNSATISFACTORY METHODS WHICH THE EAST HAS
PROPOSED FOR IMPLEMENTING THESE PRINCIPLES BRING EVIDENCE THAT
THE EAST IS IN FACT WILLING TO ADOPT A MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACH
TO THESE ISSUES, AND IF PARTICIPANTS CAN REACH AGREEMENT ON DATA,
WE MAY THEN BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE REAL PROGRESS. DEAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, NEGOTIATIONS, AMBASSADORS, TEXTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MBFRV00442
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780295-0022
Format: TEL
From: MBFR VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780748/aaaabomp.tel
Line Count: 237
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 43325171-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1972327
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: END OF ROUND XV PRESS STATEMENT GIVEN BY NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR DE VOS JULY 19, 1978 FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT FOR JULY 19 W IRELES
TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/43325171-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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